

## **KUWS Radio Superior**

### **Obey returns from Iraq: Set a timeline for getting out**

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Wisconsin's senior member of Congress has just finished a 24 hour visit to Iraq and Kuwait. Mike Simonson reports that Dave Obey says violence is down, but conditions are tough for the GI's.

Obey says at night in Bagdad, the moon shows through a fuzzy filter of air pollution. He's worried the smoky air will cause breathing problems for soldiers. He says it appears troops are getting the hardware and shielding they need, but he says it's hard to gauge their morale.

"Very frankly, the brass, they arrange your visit with troops in a way that will actually prevent any opportunity for the soldiers to talk to you frankly out of earshot from the top brass. I met some people from Wisconsin but if they did want to tell me something that was different than the party line, it'd be pretty difficult to do that with the commanding general sitting at the table with him."

Obey has sponsored two bills to set a U-S troop withdrawal from Iraq, both opposed by the Bush Administration. But that tune is changing as the President now favors a "timeline horizon".

"So it seems to me that the administration after attacking us and laughing at us for months is now moving in our direction and so is the Iraqi government."

As the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Obey visited Iraq to see the \$600-million dollar embassy being built in Bagdad. He thinks the embassy which is 10 times the size of most embassies is too large and will become a target of U.S. occupation.